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## **Laurier business students earn top Ontario title at national competition**

WATERLOO – A group of 26 Laurier School of Business & Economics students won the highly coveted "Ontario School of the Year" at the JDC West 2009 competition, which was held recently in Edmonton, Alberta. Despite being Laurier's first year in the competition, the students received high rankings in many of the events, including second-place in the Business Strategy case against 13 competing schools.

JDC West is a three-day event that showcases academics, athletics and social events, and incorporates a philanthropic competition to raise over \$200,000 for a national charity. Every year, top students from Canadian business schools compete in the super-competition for the top prize. The "Ontario School of the Year" category is judged based on a combination of academics, athletics, school spirit, teamwork, and competitive congeniality.

"After four days of sleep deprivation, constant cheering, and a showcase of the clear talent that is present in all of our Laurier students, our best and brightest rallied to claim the top spot in Ontario," said Ginny Dybenko, Laurier's dean of business and economics.

Hosted this year by the University of Alberta's School of Business, the theme for JDC West 2009 was *Inspiring Innovation*. With over 600 delegates from 14 schools across Western Canada and Ontario, the competition is the largest of its kind in the country. The participants compete in 10 academic cases, a parliamentary style debate, a sports tournament, and a social competition that tests school spirit and, above all, teamwork and determination.

"The emphasis is on teamwork, not winning, and everyone is cheering for each other," says Taylor McGuire, the Team Laurier co-captain. "The overwhelming sense of welcome we experienced was a fresh spin on the new age of business."

Preparation started in September with weekly case practices, corporate sponsorship planning, costume development, and cheer formation, which were all crucial to the process.

Plans to initiate a JDC Central competition next year are already in the works, with Laurier students stepping up to show support.